

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 IO-13 EUR-12 CIAE-00
DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00
INRE-00 /081 W

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4479

S E C R E T SEOUL 4940

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR MARR KS US

SUBJ: FORNMIN PROPOSES WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE ON SCM COMMUNIQUE

BEGIN SUMMARY. FORNMIN PAK CALLED ME IN JUNE 14 TO DISCUSS
POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF TROOP WITHDRAWALS AND
SPECIFICALLY TO PROPOSE PROCEDURES FOR DEVELOPING SCM
COMMUNIQUE. END SUMMARY.

1. AFTER I WADED, WITHOUT FOREWARNING, THROUGH ENTIRE
MOFA PRESS CORPS AND SAT WITH FORNMIN FOR PICTURES, PAK
SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO PROCEED WITH DISCUSSIONS OF DIPLOMATIC
ASPECTS OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL PREPARATORY TO FORTHCOMING
SECURITY CONSULTATIVE MEETING. NOTING UNC AND MND WERE
ALREADY DISCUSSING COMBINED COMMAND AND OTHER MILITARY
QUESTIONS, PAK SPECIFICALLY PROPOSED MOFA/EMBASSY WORKING
LEVEL COMMITTEE WITH MOFA ASSISTANT MINISTER AND AMERICAN
AFFAIRS DIRECTOR AND ASSISTANT DIRECTOR REPRESENTING ROK
SIDE. NOW THAT ROKS HAD AGREED TO ACCEPT WITHDRAWALS
IT VITAL WE DEVELOP MUTUALLY AGREEABLE IMPLEMENTATION
MEASURES FOR PSYCHOLOGICAL PURPOSES HE SAID. OBJECT OF WORKING
COMMITTEE WOULD BE TO CONVEY PUBLIC IMPRESSION WE WORKING
TOGETHER TOWARD THIS END AND TO "DISCUSS IN DETAIL THE POLITICAL
AND DIPLOMATIC ISSUES RAISED DURING (BROWN/HABIB VISIT) WITH
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A VIEW TO FORMALIZING ITS AGREEMENTS AND UNDERSTANDINGS IN
AN APPROPRIATE WRITTEN FORM AND TO MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS TO
RESPECTIVE SUPERIORS FOR CONSIDERATION." FOREIGN MINISTER
EXPLAINED THIS LATTER PHRASE, SAYING THAT ESSENTIALLY WHAT HE
MEANT WAS THAT WORKING GROUPS SHOULD DEVELOP DRAFT COMMUNIQUE.
FORNMIN THEN ASKED WHETHER DEFENSE SECRETARY BROWN WOULD
COME TO SCM WITH ANY ADDITIONAL STATUS.

2. IN RESPONSE TO THE LAST QUESTION, I TOLD PAK THAT SECRETARY BROWN WOULD NOT HAVE ANY SPECIAL STATUS DURING HIS VISIT, SINCE AS CABINET SECRETARY HE OBVIOUSLY ALREADY WAS AN EMISSARY OF THE PRESIDENT. AT THE SAME TIME, I MADE CLEAR THAT DEPARTMENT DOES BELIEVE FORTHCOMING SCM TO BE IMPORTANT MEETING AND WAS CONSIDERING WAYS IN WHICH COMMUNIQUE MIGHT BE GIVEN EMPHASIS.

3. AGREEING WITH FORNMIN THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO DEVELOP PUBLIC ACCEPTANCE OF TROOP WITHDRAWAL AND IMPLEMENTING MEASURES, I QUESTIONED HOW MUCH FORMALIZED DISCUSSION WOULD BE REQUIRED ON DIPLOMATIC AND POLITICAL QUESTIONS. I REMINDED FOREIGN MINISTER THAT THERE HAD BEEN FULL AGREEMENT ON THESE POINTS AT BROWN/HABIB MEETING AT MOFA ON MAY 26. I AGREED THAT FROM THE POINT OF VIEW OF THE PUBLIC IT WOULD BE GOOD TO PROVIDE APPEARANCE OF CONTINUING CONSULTATION BUT EXPRESSED DESIRE NOT TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURAL MATTERS. WITHIN THAT FRAMEWORK, I SAID WE WOULD BE HAPPY TO ENTERTAIN ANY THOUGHTS MOFA STAFF LEVELS WISHED TO CONVEY TO US REGARDING THE SCM COMMUNIQUE. I INDICATED THAT I WOULD BE PREPARED TO HAVE DCM, POLITICAL COUNSELOR AND ONE OTHER EMBASSY OFFICER DISCUSS THESE QUESTIONS WITH MOFA OFFICERS. I MADE CLEAR, HOWEVER, THAT WE HAD NOTHING SUBSTANTIAL TO OFFER AT THIS TIME.

4. PAK AGREED THERE WAS NO NEED TO GET BOGGED DOWN IN PROCEDURES, EMPHASIZING THAT IT WAS SIMPLY IMPORTANT TO GIVE APPEARANCE OF WORKING OUT DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS IN ADVANCE OF SCM. HE THEN GAVE ME AIDE MEMOIRE CONTAINING POINTS MADE ABOVE.

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5. FORNMIN ASKED AS AFTERTHOUGHT WHETHER WE FORESAW ANY OPPORTUNITIES NOW FOR INITIATING FURTHER DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS WITH PRC AND USSR. I SAID I DID NOT KNOW, RECALLING HOWEVER THAT UNDER SECRETARY HABIB HAD PROMISED DURING HIS VISIT WE WOULD BE TAKING KOREAN QUESTION UP WITH CHINESE AND SOVIETS AT APPROPRIATE TIME.

6. RETURNING TO MY DESK I FOUND FULL HAPDONG WIRE SERVICE ACCOUNT OF MEETING HAD BEEN ISSUED AN HOUR PRIOR TO ITS START. CONTRARY TO HAPDONG REPORT THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION U.S. EFFORTS VIS-A-VIS PRC AND USSR EXCEPT AS DESCRIBED PARA 5. NOR DID I AGREE AS HAPDONG ALLEGED TO HOLD SUBSTANTIVE TALKS ON WITHDRAWALS ONCE OR TWICE A WEEK. I SIMPLY AGREED AS INDICATED PARA. 3 ABOVE TO ENTERTAIN INFORMAL ROK VIEWS REGARDING SCM COMMUNIQUE. POLCONS HAS CONVEYED OUR CONCERN ABOUT MISTAKES IN HAPDONG ACCOUNT AND SIMILAR SPECULATIVE ARTICLES REGARDING MEETING WHICH PUBLISHED IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING MEETING IN ROK PRESS.

7. COMMENT: WHILE THIS MEETING WAS TO CONSIDERABLE DEGREE DESIGNED AS PUBLIC RELATIONS STUNT, AND THAT IS ANNOYING,

BELIEVE THERE ARE MUTUAL ADVANTAGES IN GIVING APPEARANCE HERE
THAT CONSULTATIONS ARE CONTINUING. ACCORDINGLY, WITH "PROMISE"
FROM MOFA THAT PRESS PLAY WILL DIE OUT, I INTEND TO PROCEED WITH
WORKING LEVEL DISCUSSIONS PROPOSED BY PAK AND WILL HAVE DMC
STERN, POLCOUNS AND EMBASSY POL/MIL OFFICER PARTICIPATE IN
FIRST SESSION JUNE 17. WE WILL CONTINUE TO MAKE CLEAR THAT WE
HAVE NOTHING SUBSTANTIVE TO CONTRIBUTE AT THIS TIME BEYOND WHAT
ALREADY GIVENTO ROKG BUT WILL BE GLAD TO ENTERTAIN ANY THOUGHTS
ROK SIDE MAY HAVE REGARDIING DIPLOMATIC STEPS ON SCM COMMUNIQUE.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Channel Indicators: n/a
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Concepts: COMMUNIQUE, TROOP REDUCTIONS
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Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
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SAS ID: 2157065
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FORNMIN PROPOSES WORKING LEVEL COMMITTEE ON SCM COMMUNIQUE BEGIN SUMMARY. FORNMIN PAK CALLED ME IN JUNE 14 TO DISCUSS POLITICAL AND DIPLOMATIC ASPECTS OF TROOP WITHDRAW
TAGS: PFOR, MARR, KS, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/a4c2417d-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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